

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Sunday after the Ascension

17 May 2026

8.00 Holy Communion

*The order of service is printed on the laminated card.
The Reading, Gospel, and Prayers of the People can be found below.*

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Organ Etude, from Trois Pièces, Op. 2

A.N. Scriabin (1871-1915)

The Entrance Hymn #214

From the Hymnal 1982

The Opening Acclamation

Remain standing.

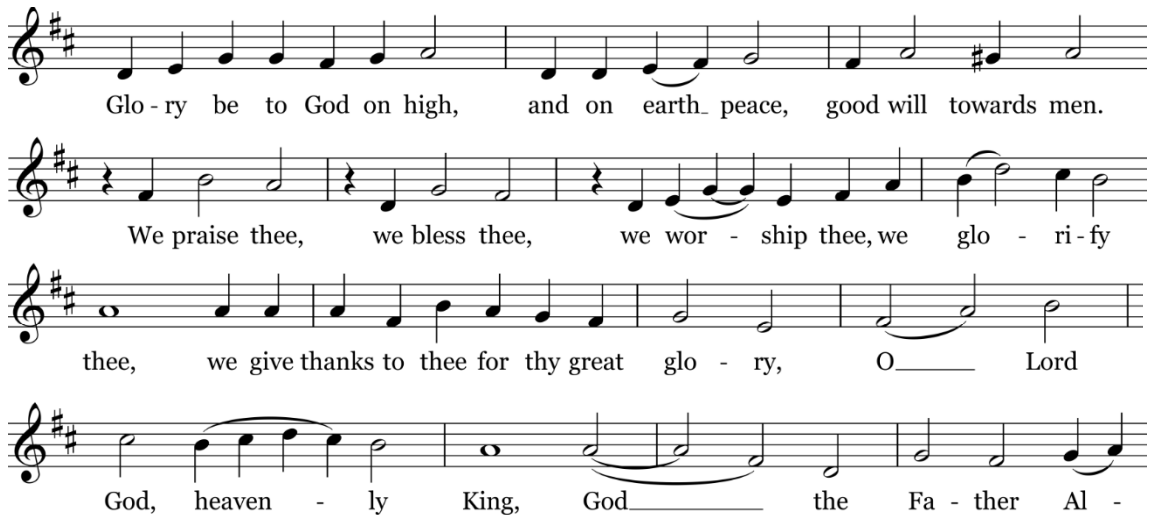
Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria in excelsis

Healey Willan (1880-1968)



Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth_ peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy

thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, O Lord

God, heaven - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al -

might - - y. O Lord, the on - ly be-got-ten
 Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
 Fa - ther, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our
 prayer. Thou that sit - test at the right hand of God the Fa - ther, have
 mer - cy up - on us. For thou on - ly art ho - ly;
 thou on-ly are the Lord; thou on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly
 Ghost, art most high in the glo - ry of God the
 Fa - ther. A - - - - -
 - - - - - men.

Remain standing.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray. O Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abideth with his Church on earth, even unto the end of the ages; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated.

The Gradual

Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)

Sing ye to the Lord who ascended to the heaven of heavens, to the sunrising. Alleluia.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1.15-23

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and

revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Alleluia



Verse: I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world; again, I leave the world and go to the Father. **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

John 17:1-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Jonathan Kimmel

All stand.

The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried:
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

All kneel.

The Prayers of the People

In our prayers this week, we remember the Church of Papua New Guinea; and in the Albany diocese, Jeremiah, our bishop; and the parish of St. Boniface, Guilderland. We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

Let us join our prayers with those of our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking the Father's blessing, and the gifts of the Spirit, saying, Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, our great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of your majesty on high, pray for this troubled world, and make it subject to your just and gentle rule. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your brothers and sisters in any need, distress or sorrow, especially Joe. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us who bear witness to your glory and power. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Celebrant: Give to your Church, O God, a bold vision and a daring charity; a refreshed wisdom and a courteous understanding; that the eternal message of your Son may be acclaimed as the good news of the age, through him who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

The Celebrant says the Absolution.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand. At the Peace, you may greet those around you in the name of the Lord.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

Hymn at the Offertory #450

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up unto the Lord.
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his glorious resurrection manifestly appeared to his disciples; and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying,

The Sanctus and Benedictus

Healey Willan (1880-1968)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Hea-ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo - ry be to
thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All kneel.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made

there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Fraction

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Remain kneeling.

Agnus Dei from Missa Aeterna Christi

G. P. da Palestrina (1525-1594)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata munda, dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

Communion is administered at the altar rail. Please move at the direction of the usher.

Motet

Luca Marenzio (1553-1599)

O Rex Glorïae, Domine virtutum, qui triumphator hodie super omnes coelos ascendisti, ne derelinquas nos orphanos, sed mitte promissum Patris in nos Spiritum Veritatis. Alleluia.

O King of Glory, Lord of Hosts, who ascended to heaven on this day, triumphant over all; do not leave us as orphans but send us the Father's promise, the Spirit of Truth. Alleluia.

Communion Hymn #221 (remain seated or kneeling)

From the Hymnal 1982

After Communion, all kneel.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. **Almighty and ever living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

The Closing Hymn #483

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ

Festal Postlude on 'Lasst uns erfreuen'

William Faulkes (1863-1933)

Music Notes Today's service is framed by two distinct musical voices from the turn of the century: Alexander Scriabin's *Etude* and William Faulkes's *Festal Postlude*. Scriabin's Op. 2 No. 1, though written in his youth, is a masterpiece of Russian Romanticism; its melancholic, brooding textures evoke a sense of deep spiritual yearning and "holy waiting" that mirrors Christ's prayer for his disciples. In stark contrast, Faulkes's jubilant treatment of *Lasst uns erfreuen*—the soaring tune often associated with "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"—provides a triumphant liturgical bookend. While the Prelude invites us into the quiet, interior space of the "in-between" time of the Easter season, the Postlude propels us outward with a "Festal" energy, echoing the confidence of the early Church as they prepared for the fire of Pentecost.

Notices

Thank you to Jon Kimmel, our preacher today; and to those **reading and leading prayers** at 8am Bob Bullock; and at 10am Rick Wissler and Daniel Beach.

Join us for **coffee** after today's 10am service. Thanks to Allison Read for hosting.

TODAY at 3pm Excelsior Vocal Ensemble presents *Morte E Amore*, Italian choral treasures of loss and love spanning four centuries. Featuring Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, in a dramatic arrangement for chorus and string quartet, as well as works by Monteverdi, Palestrina, and Pizzetti. Tickets are \$25 and available at the door.

Knitting Group Our first set of mini-prayer shawls will be blessed next Sunday on the Feast of Pentecost before being distributed to those in need. If you wish to learn more about Bethesda's prayer shawl ministry, contact Carol or Jean at office@bethesdachurch.org

Zoom Lecture You are invited to attend (virtually) a lecture by Dr Ryan Burge on his book, *The Vanishing Church*, on May 19, from 7pm – 9pm. The book reveals how political polarization transformed American Christianity over the past 50 years and why this divide impacts every aspect of society. To register go to: samaritancounselingcenter.org/upcoming-trainings.

A Summer of Dante invites you to journey through The Divine Comedy in the company of fellow readers and expert guides. Read at your own pace, or deepen your experience by joining one—or all—of our seven discussion groups led by teachers, clergy, and scholars. Our introductory session on Wednesday 27 May will be led by Dr. Mark Vernon, author of *Dante's Divine Comedy: A Guide for the Spiritual Journey*. Whether you're encountering Dante for the first time or returning to this masterpiece, come explore the depths of Inferno, the ascent of Purgatorio, and the glory of Paradiso this summer. For more information or to register, contact Jonathan Kimmel at jkimmel@thecathedralofallsaints.org

Bethesda hosts a **fundraising concert** by violinist, Luellen Abdo and pianist, Christopher Oldfather of the New York City Ballet Orchestra on Thursday 4 June at 6.30pm. Music of Mozart, Brahms, Philip Glass. Admission by donation.

Former Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, will preside at a **Revival Service** at Christ the King Center, Greenwich, on 18 June at 7pm: www.albanyepiscopaldioocese.org/revival

Donations from the Monthly Envelope in **May** will be directed to the **Beaver Cross Camp Scholarship Fund**. Beaver Cross, our diocesan camp in Greenwich, NY, seeks to make its

summer programs available to every eligible child who wishes to participate in its activities, regardless of a family's financial circumstances. Each year, funds are raised to meet the need for scholarships. Please support this enriching experience for children.

Parish Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 10-12:30pm; and Thursday 12:30– 3pm.

Parking The lot adjacent to the church, which is accessible via Congress Street, offers free parking for the first two hours.

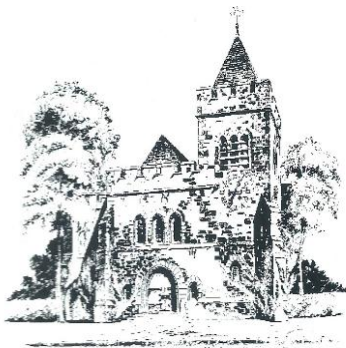


Ascensiontide

In these days between the Ascension and Pentecost, we are in the ‘novena’ — the nine days in which St. Luke tells us that the Apostles “all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.”

As we prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, it is worth reflecting on the fruits of the Spirit poured into our hearts: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5.22–23).

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit may renew these gifts within us. These are the fruits that characterised the life of Jesus on earth, and they are the fruits we need in order to live Christ-like lives in the world today.



Please place this form in the collection plate if you would like us to get in touch with you:

Name:

Phone:

Email address:

Home address:

Preferred contact method:

Contact Reason:

- Visitor or new resident
- Would like more information about the church and/or worship
- Interested in opportunities to serve
- Would like to speak with or have a visit from the priest
- Would like information about pledge envelopes or regular giving to Bethesda
- Other _____

The Reverend Charles Wallace, *Rector*

Office Email: office@bethesdachurch.org

Office Telephone: (518) 584-5980

Website: bethesdachurch.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>

Bethesda Episcopal Church Office

178 Elm Street, Suite 5
Saratoga Springs NY 12866